

immigrating to the United States as a young boy, Stephan exemplified the American spirit through a life of hard work and public service. I worked closely with Stephan while he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe from 2001 until 2005. During that period, he made significant advances in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on a wide range of security-related concerns, including counterterrorism, arms control, human rights, democratization, and economic development.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Minikes practiced law for more than 30 years in Washington, DC and New York. He worked in public law and policy strategy, while more recently he represented clients in national defense, energy, transportation, and international trade. A well known member of the Washington political, legal and diplomatic communities, Ambassador Minikes combined knowledge of business and government from the perspectives of the White House, the U.S. Congress and Federal agencies, as well as of the roles of U.S. embassies and foreign embassies in Washington, DC.

Ambassador Minikes was a 1961 graduate of Cornell University and a 1964 graduate of Yale Law School. He was a member of the bars of the District of Columbia, the State of New York, the U.S. Supreme Court and various other Federal courts, including the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, and a member of the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the American Society of International Law and the Association of the Bar of the city of New York.

Along with these bar association memberships and his impressive educational background, Stephan was a wonderful public servant throughout his lifetime. He lectured to students around the world on issues ranging from foreign policy to national defense, traveled to more than 100 countries representing the U.S. Government and private interests, served as the director of the Washington Opera at the Kennedy Center, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Yale Law School and a member of the board of directors of the American Council on Germany.

Ambassador Minikes was devoted not only to his country, the promotion of human rights and the improvement of global policies, but to his family. Colleagues, please join me in honoring and remembering of Ambassador Stephan Minikes, a true leader and patriot.●

DELTA COUNTY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there are thousands of small and medium size counties across our country that form the backbone of our shared history and cultural heritage. These communities shape our political, economic, and social structure. Each has a unique his-

tory that defines its region and its citizens. Delta County, MI, set along Lake Michigan in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is one such place, and since its inception 150 years ago, has contributed much to the rich and proud history of my home State.

While human life in this region dates back to at least 500 A.D. as evidenced by cliff paintings found in the area, the area was first surveyed in 1843, and in 1861, a triangle shaped section of this land was incorporated as Delta County. At one point in the early 1850s, the mouth of the Escanaba River was home to the largest timber producer in the world; built by one of the county's founding fathers, Nelson Ludington. Two years after the county's incorporation, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad constructed Delta County's first iron ore dock. Over the ensuing decade, the residents of Delta County witnessed the construction of the first frame houses and a hotel, in addition to the Sand Point Lighthouse in Escanaba. The Delta County Historical Society restored this lighthouse in 1987, and it still stands today along Delta County's majestic coastline.

The years following Escanaba's establishment were prosperous, as Delta County grew as a transportation hub for iron in the north, powering the growth of the Great Lakes region's manufacturing prowess. In 1877, the city of Gladstone was incorporated at the end of the Soo Line railroad. Twenty-one years after its founding, Delta County constructed its first courthouse, and a year later, in 1883, the village of Escanaba, the county seat, incorporated as a city. Today, the county takes pride in its continued role in transporting ore, partnered with a diversified paper industry and its popularity as a destination for tourists visiting one of our Nation's most pristine regions.

The Hiawatha National Forest accounts for more than half of Delta County's land area. This beautiful natural resource stretches across Michigan's Upper Peninsula, touching three of the five Great Lakes and contains 413 inland lakes, making it a popular destination for campers and outdoor enthusiasts. A respect for the environment is a central part of the culture of Delta County residents, and in 1991, Delta County was awarded one of six statewide "model" program grants for a recycling and composting program.

Delta County's sesquicentennial marks a great moment for the countless citizens who have contributed much to the success of this region and have helped shape the cultural fabric of this area over the last century and a half. On June 22, Delta County held a ceremony reminiscent of its 100th anniversary celebration, raising a flag and exploring in depth the long, rich history of the county. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me and thousands of citizens across Michigan in wishing the residents of Delta County the best as they chart a course for another century of accomplishment.●

REMEMBERING AMOS MCCLURE

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Mr. Amos McClure, who passed away on October 1, 2011, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Louis, MO. A veteran of the Korean war, during which he was taken prisoner, Amos lived the life of an American patriot.

Just out of high school, Amos joined the U.S. Army in 1948 at the age of 17. At the U.S. Armed Forces Institute in Fort Lewis, WA, he became an expert rifleman before specializing in heavy infantry during the Korean war. On November 29, 1950—just 19 days shy of his 20th birthday—Amos was captured by the enemy while serving his nation in Korea. He spent almost 3 years as a prisoner of war, until his release on August 8, 1953—Armistice Day.

Amos was shot and wounded as a prisoner of war. But Amos was a survivor and his strength and determination helped him overcome both the physical and emotional wounds that were inflicted on so many American POWs. For his service, and in recognition of the sacrifices he made for his country, CPL Amos McClure received numerous military awards, including the Prisoner of War Medal.

Amos returned home from serving in Korea to marry his sweetheart, Norma Jean Southerland. They were married for almost 52 years before she passed away. They leave behind five children.

After his discharge, Amos worked for the Atomic Energy Commission as a storage battery technician. Later, as a civilian for the U.S. Air Force, he worked as a storage battery technician before moving to St. Louis to become a service manager and electrician until his retirement in 2004.

I honor Amos today out of appreciation for the sacrifices he made on behalf of his fellow Americans, for his contributions to his community, and for the example he set for his children. He had the benefit of a strong family support system and a work ethic that allowed him to move forward from the horrors of war. His spirited approach to life is emblematic of the courage, honor, and strength of our veterans who fought for our freedom.

I join his family, the people of Missouri, and all Americans, in saluting Amos McClure's courage, and I humbly recognize him for all that he has done and for all that he endured for this country. Amos McClure was a true American hero.●

TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN BEAUREGARD

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I honor Families in Transition President and Founder Maureen Beauregard for her outstanding service to New Hampshire families over the last two decades.

Twenty years ago, Maureen Beauregard made a commitment to help homeless and at-risk families find safe,